

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application, with all claims having been amended herein. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, and specifically on pages 18 and 19.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Holroyd et al. (5,781,435) in view of Langford et al (5,206,929).

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites in part as follows:

editing mode selecting means for selecting a linear or non-linear editing mode; wherein said recording and reproducing means operate in a bound state such that the recording means and one of the plurality of reproducing means are selected as a set and work in concert with one another during editing;

The amendment to claim 1 further clarifies the term “bound state.” The added language is taken from page 19 of the specification.

The Examiner admits that Holroyd does not teach operation in a bound state as stated on page 7 of the office action, “[Holroyd does] not explicitly disclose selecting an output port in conjunction with an input port.” As a result the Examiner relies on Langford to allegedly supply this element of the instant claims. However, contrary to the Examiner’s suggestion, the relied upon portions of Langford do not contain a teaching of selecting as a set a recording means and one of a plurality of reproducing means. The relied upon portions of Langford (Col. 5, ll. 15-19, and Col. 6, ll. 22-29 and Fig. 4), while teaching interconnection of recording and reproducing means via a switcher do not teach operation in a bound state, that is they do not describe recording means and reproducing means that “are selected as a set and work in concert with one another during editing.”

Because as the Examiner admits, there is no such teaching in Holroyd, and because the relied upon portions of Langford do not include such teachings, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of the cited references and is allowable. Independent claims 8 and 9 each recites

wherein said recording and reproducing means operate in a bound state such that the recording means and one of the plurality of reproducing means are selected as a set and work in concert with one another during editing

As discussed above, such features are not shown in the relied upon portions of the cited references. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited references and are allowable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

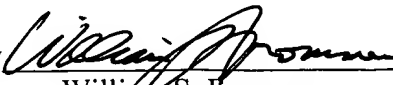
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application. Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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